

Sirhan Gun: Not Death Weapon?

Affidavits and a letter challenging expert gun identification testimony in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and Jack Kirsche murder trials have been filed with the Los Angeles Civil Service Commission.

The documents raised a possibility that the weapon in evidence at the Sirhan trial might not have been the one used in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Barbara Warner Blehr, Los Angeles civil and criminal attorney, submitted the material yesterday in an admitted effort to block the appointment of Dr. Wayne A. Wolfer as head of the Police Scientific Investigation Police Laboratory.

Police Chief Edward M. Davis immediately appointed a board of inquiry to investigate charges made by Mrs. Blehr, as early as possible next week.

Davis also said he has instructed Wolfer to make no comment pending the outcome of the inquiry.

Wolfer testified for the prosecution in the trials in which Sirhan was convicted of the 1968 assassination of Kennedy, a former deputy district attorney, found guilty of killing his wife and her lover, Jack Collins, Dep. Chief, John McAllister and Cmdr. George

Blair. Both are appealing their cases.

As the cases are awaiting appeal, Davis said he urged the board of inquiry—Assst. Chief, John McAllister and Cmdr. George Blair—to have Attorney General

Expert Is Challenged

Back—to have Attorney General District Attorney and City Attorney representatives at the hearing.

Mrs. Blehr told "The Herald-Examiner" she is questioning Wolfer's testimony only because she is interested in seeing that the best there is "in scientific pe-

the by Sheriff's chief criminologist, and Dr. LeRoy Snyder, author and authority in legal medicine and homicide investiga-

The experts listed six precepts considered inviolable in firearms identification. Mrs. Blehr, in her letter to the commission, said Wolfer violated those precepts in his expert testimony, and thereby erred in his identification of murder weapons.

In the Sirhan case—referred to in the letter only by its court number—Mrs. Blehr said Wol-

CHALLENGE GUN EXPERT

(Continued from Page A-1) for violated four precepts when he testified the defendant's gun and no other was involved in the shooting of Kennedy and two other victims.

"The physical evidence, however, upon which his testimony was based established that the three above mentioned evidence bullets removed from victims' assassinations, she said.

In the Kirsche case, Mrs. Blehr said, Wolfer violated a precept by matching a single hand impression on the test bullet with two different hand impressions on a fatal bullet, thus pointing effective July 1.

similar guns were being fired at the scene of the crime," she added. "Such a conclusion then leads unavoidably to the question: which of the two guns fired the single fatal bullet?"

But the second similar gun was reportedly destroyed by the Los Angeles Police Department in July, 1968, a month after the assassination, she said.

Wolfer was described by Chief Davis as "a cautious conservative, straightforward and thorough scientist," and as a "distinguished expert."

Davis said Wolfer has been acting head of the crime lab, and had been recommended by the chief for a permanent ap-

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DEWAYNE WOLFER



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